

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 27, 2006. Claims 6 to 10, 16 to 20, 26 to 30 and 32 are pending in the application, of which Claims 6, 16, 26 and 32 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to paragraph [0155] of the specification which reads as follows:

"Then, when the output sheet of "4-zone post card" is selected, the print layout is set to 4-page printing by the physical N-page printing function. In such a modification, whether the output sheet size is set to "4-zone post card" is determined in step 2004 by employing the output sheet size as the physical N-page printing condition. Then, control is performed such that if "4-zone post card" is selected, the physical N-page printing is executed, and if another output sheet is selected, the printable region N-page printing is executed."

Applicants submit that an output sheet that is a "4-zone post card" is has as its premise that a printed sheet is cut into N-sheets with "N" being at least 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 6 to 10, 16 to 20, 26 to 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,495,561 (Holt). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns switching between the two kinds of N-page printing, for example "physical N-page printing arranging" and "printable region N-page printing arranging", on the basis of output sheet information.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 6 is directed to an information processing apparatus for having a printer driver which generates print data to be printed at a printing apparatus using a plurality of pages of drawing data input from an application. The apparatus includes entry means for entering a designation of N-page printing in which drawing data of N pages ($N > 1$, N is an integer) is printed on one print sheet; physical N-page printing arranging means for arranging the drawing data of each page at a center of each of equal N-divided areas of a physical sheet by scaling-down; printable region N-page printing arranging means for arranging the drawing data of each page in each of equal N-divided areas of a printable region on a physical sheet by scaling-down; determining means for determining which one of the physical N-page printing arranging means and the printable region N-page printing arranging means is employed to execute processing for arranging the pages on the basis of output sheet information, in a case where a print request occurs for the designation of N-page printing entered by the entry means; and generation means for generating the print data by executing the determined one of the physical N-page printing arranging means and the printable region N-page printing arranging means.

In contrast, Holt discloses providing pagination routines for printing as shown in Figs. 14A to 14C. Fig. 14A shows a printed output of a MacDraw paginator model and Fig. 14B shows a printed output of a MacWrite paginator model. Both figures merely illustrate separate output models from separate applications. In addition, Fig. 14C

merely illustrates a n-up pagination model. However, Holt fails to disclose or suggest switching between the two kinds of N-page printing of the present invention, namely "physical N-page printing arranging" and "printable region N-page printing arranging" on the basis of output sheet information.

Furthermore, nothing in Miyake is seen to disclose or suggest that which is missing from Holt. Miyake merely discloses that a value N for N-up printing is determined so that it can be arranged on the number of sheets designated by a user. From the drawings, it can be understood that the N-page printing of Miyake corresponds to "printable region N-page printing arranging" which arranges the drawing data in each of equal N-divided areas of a printable region on a physical sheet by scaling-down. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Miyake of switching between two kinds of N-page printing, namely "physical N-page printing arranging" and "printable region N-page printing arranging", as Miyake discloses only one type of N-page printing.

Therefore, neither Holt nor Miyake, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest at least the features of a determining means for determining which one of said physical N-page printing arranging means and said printable region N-page printing arranging means is employed to execute processing for arranging the pages on the basis of output sheet information, in a case where a print request occurs for the designation of N-page printing entered by said entry means and generation means for generating the print data by executing the determined one of said physical N-page printing arranging means and said printable region N-page printing arranging means.

In light of the deficiencies of Holt as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 6 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

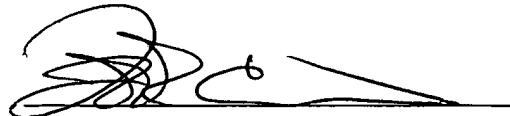
Amended independent Claims 16, 26 and 32 are directed to a method, a control program stored on a computer-readable medium and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 16, 26 and 32 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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